

Organ donors allow success stories to happen

Kristin Zagurski

"I thank God. I thank UNMC. I thank organ donors. I thank the nurses. And I thank every one of you for coming here today," Becky Vandeberg-Tate, mother of liver transplant recipient Autumn Tate, told the crowd that gathered in the Milo Bail Student Center Thursday to hear a panel discussion about organ and tissue donation.

The discussion was part of the third annual Organ Donor Awareness Day, sponsored by UNO's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

Four days after her 16th birthday in 1997, Tate was found on the floor by her mother — she was experiencing acute fulminant hepatic failure and had fallen into a coma.

Tate was eventually taken to the Lied Transplant Center at the University of Nebraska Medical — one of the best in the country.

Nebraska has made a very big name for itself as far as organ transplants go, said Jamie Billings, coordinator of Organ Recovery Services for Nebraska Health

Systems.

Even though they had no health insurance, the family was willing to do whatever was needed to get Tate her transplant.

"We'll sell everything we own and ourselves on the street if we have to finance this transplant," Vandeberg-Tate said.

And Tate received her transplant.

The donor not only saved Tate's life, but the life of a 56-year-old man as well. The frontal lobe of the donor liver was given to Tate in a "partial piggy-back transplant" and the remainder was transplanted into the man. The donor was a 22-year-old male who was hit by a car on Thanksgiving Day.

Tate's fate remained uncertain, even after receiving the partial liver, but Vandeberg-Tate told the nurses: "She learned to walk once, she learned to talk once — you give her back to me alive and we'll go from there."

And they did.

Tate, 20, now works in Lincoln as a dental lab technician and is not on any anti-rejection drugs.

Jeanette Paulson, 21, a junior at Wayne State College, is also a liver transplant



photos by Chris Machian



**Some you win ...
some you don't**

As part of Organ Donor Awareness Day, the UNO chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America sponsored several outdoor events, including a water balloon toss. Bridget Stephenson (right) makes a successful catch during the competition, while Sara Stricker isn't so lucky.

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'Mr. Clean,' UNO instructor and anti-porn prosecutor, dies at 67

TJ Accola

Services were held last week for Gary Bucchino, a part-time UNO instructor better known as Omaha's "Mr. Clean." Bucchino died last week at the age of 67 after a brief illness.

As a part-time instructor in UNO's College of Business Administration, Bucchino had been teaching an Advanced Business Law course on Thursday nights.

Dave Volkman, chair of finance, banking and law, recalled Bucchino as a "super-nice guy" who was always "smiling" and "energetic." Volkman said Bucchino "brought expertise" and many "real-world examples" to the classes he taught.

However, Bucchino was better known to the Omaha community as the city prosecutor nicknamed "Mr. Clean." From 1971 to 1994, Bucchino worked ceaselessly to shut down so-called "smut" shops — establishments that sold pornographic material — which Bucchino and others claimed brought with them illegal activities.

Bucchino's efforts often divided the Omaha community, but he was largely successful in driving the controversial shops out of Omaha. ☺

Student Government concludes semester with new legislation, appointments

Kristin Zagurski

The appointment of new agency directors, committee chairs and officers was the main order of business at the semester's last Student Government meeting, held Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the Dodge Rooms of the Milo Bail Student Center.

Each of Student Government's four agencies — American Multicultural Students, International Student Services, Network for disAbled Students and Women's Resource Center — all had new directors elected. Maliha Alam,

Sami Vasisthas, Michelle Jensen and Angie Robertson were elected unanimously to fill the positions, respectively.

College of Business Sen. Aaron Winters was elected as the new Executive Treasurer, replacing exiting member Angelo Zieno.

Speaker Aaron Becker attempted to appoint Arts and Sciences Sen. Brianne Wilde to the position of Chief Administrative Officer. Initially, she was deemed approved by Becker, with an apparent 22-8 passing vote, but a recount was ordered during an executive session,

during which it was found the number initially voted on was erroneous, Becker said.

A re-vote was ordered and the appointment did not pass with majority.

Becker then suspended the rules to hear Wilde's appointment again, which once again failed to achieve majority.

"The position of CAO thus will be vacant come May 1," Becker said. He added that the Senate would be "looking to take the dispute to the Student Court."

Sophomore class Sen. Jono Croskey was elected as the new chair of the Student Affairs Committee in a

see Student Government, page 3

Maverick tennis team stakes claim, finishes third at NCCs

Paul Freeland

Tennis

Maverick head coach Bill Nichols' tennis team finished third at the North Central Conference tournament for the second season running, but even a cursory glance at the results would indicate the differences between this and last season's finish.

UNO took third place with 42 points, six behind second-place North Dakota and 18 behind 11-time conference champion Northern Colorado. The Mavs' effort was 13 points better than their finish at the 2001 NCC tournament, where they took third

with 29 points.

Nichols said the improvement in the Mavericks' play was a key point of the tournament.

"I think one of the special things was that we scored 42 points in the conference tournament this year," Nichols said. "We finished third this year, like we did last year, but last year we only scored 29 points, so the improvement from last season was outstanding. We finished six points out of second place, as opposed to 20 last year and we got a great team effort from all the players, so I was pleased with the way things turned out."

St. Cloud State was fourth with 40



photo by Chris Machian

Jenika Schmidt is one of two graduating seniors on the UNO tennis team.

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Members of UNO's Wellness Stampede gave out candy to students and faculty obeying seat belt laws last week.

67 percent of students, 78 percent of faculty/staff buckle up


Kristin Zagurski

On April 23, 24 and 25, members of UNO's Wellness Stampede set up barricades at various campus locations to perform seat belt checks.

Students and faculty and staff members were stopped at three locations as they drove into campus: the parking structure on April 23, University Village and Library lots K and M April 24 and Health, Physical Education and Recreation Lot O April 25.

A total of 1,347 seat belts were checked — 67 percent of students and 78 percent of faculty and staff members wore their seat belts, said Marey Ruckman, a graduate assistant in fitness and wellness.

The event came nearly a month before the national event Buckle Up America, which will be held May 20-27. During that week, law enforcement agencies nationwide will actively enforce seat belt and child passenger safety laws. A special emphasis will be placed on getting teenage drivers to buckle up this year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Web site at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

Buckle Up America is a campaign to encourage proper seat belt and child safety seat use and is coordinated by the NHTSA with the assistance of the Academy for Educational Development, according to www.buckleupamerica.org. 

'Kids' celebrate one year of entrepreneurial success in coffee biz

Kimberly Bryant

So you think studying for final exams is a test in fortitude? Maybe you should try what two other college-age kids are: running your own business.

Eric and Amber Goodenough (24 and 23, respectively) are the "kids" behind Caffeine Dreams, Omaha's newest coffee shop. Located at 4524 Farnam St., word of Caffeine Dreams is quickly spreading through UNO and Omaha.

So where did Caffeine Dreams come from? The Goodenoughs came up with the idea while residing in Santa Barbara, Calif.

"It was just one of those ideas that we had talked about doing someday," Amber says. "Only we had thought it would be in the future and that we would be much older."

Both Eric and Amber have seven years of combined experience in the coffee business and figured opening a coffee shop would be a success waiting to happen.

The couple later moved to Omaha, where they saved money to open the shop.

"We decided Omaha would be the place to do it," Amber says.

It took the Goodenoughs a year to develop the idea and get the store up and running. Eric says it took six months to figure out what would be needed to open the shop and over the next six months, the Goodenoughs put the plan into action.

Amber says the hardest part of owning a business is trying to keep on top of everything and managing time and employees.

"Everyone but one person on the staff is older than me, so it is challenging at times," she says.

Regardless, neither denies the perks of being in charge.

"You have a lot more freedom to make changes," Eric says. "You get the opportunity to run your business the way you want to run it."

The past year for the two has been very busy.


"It's been a roller coaster," Amber says. "We opened as school was getting out last year and as students were going home for the summer. We had a great fall and since the weather has been getting nicer, business has been picking up. It gets better each month."

As for the upcoming year, the pair plans to do more whole-selling of their coffee, so restaurants can start selling their product.

They also plan to stay ahead of the current trends in the market.

"We want to keep it consistent and keep up with what we're doing," Eric says.

Caffeine Dreams opened in April 2001 and is celebrating its one-year anniversary. In honor of its first-year celebration, Caffeine Dreams will be having a week full of specials for customers to enjoy as a way to thank them for the patronage they have given in the past year.

Through May 3, "Feature of the Day" drinks are half-price. Also, stop in to enter the "Create a Drink" contest. (If your drink name is chosen, you win a free T-shirt.) On May 3, patrons can stop in and enjoy a buy one/get one free drink of their choice. 

Instant-runoff voting . . .

Voter salvation or too good to be true?

Angie Schaffer

Remember the messy Bush-Gore election of 2000? With presidential elections approaching, the issue has been resurrected as nervous citizens wonder how to guard against it all happening again.

One potential solution is instant-runoff voting, which requires that each voter rank all candidates in terms of preference. For example, the voter's first choice for president gets a 1, the second choice gets a 2 and the third choice receives a 3.

Initially, the voter is still voting for the candidate ranked number one. Things become more complicated after the votes are tallied. If no candidate receives at least 50 percent of votes, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes is dropped from the race, and all votes given to that candidate are re-sorted based on second-choice picks.

This process is repeated until a winner is determined.

For those in the inner circle who have heard of instant-runoff voting,

there is a backbone of support.

"Instant runoff voting is a winner-take-all system that ensures that a winning candidate will receive a majority of votes rather than a simple plurality," says www.fairvote.org. "In plurality voting — as used in most U.S. elections — candidates can win with less than a majority when there are more than two candidates running for the office. In contrast, IRV elects a majority candidate while still allowing voters to support a candidate who is not a front-runner."

Does this sound like an improvement over the all-or-nothing method we are used to? Although there are no dangling chad debates here, the instant-runoff voting method is not all perks.

"It looks good, but it really doesn't solve the problem," says James Johnson, a professor in UNO's political science department. He explains that although a large majority of the public may be divided on a first-choice candidate, there may be overall agreement on a second choice. However, this second-choice

candidate could already be eliminated from the running.


Other concerns include the cost to change voting equipment (not all equipment could accommodate instant-runoff voting) and what effect a change would have on traditions such as the electoral college.

Despite these issues, the instant-runoff method is already planned for use in Utah's Republican convention's candidate nomination vote in May. It has also been planned for ballots in San Francisco and Alaska in 2002.

Internationally, the method is also used in Ireland, U.K. and Australia.

Ironically, the American Political Science Association uses this method to elect its president.

For those interested in the system, www.instantrunoff.com suggests "asking ... voting officials ... [to] make sure [new] equipment is capable of handling all types of voting schemes."

Further information on instant runoff voting can be found at www.fairvote.org and at www.instantrunoff.com. 

the gateway

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The Gateway is published by the University of Nebraska at Omaha Student Publications Committee on Tuesdays and Fridays during the fall and spring semesters and on Tuesdays during the summer sessions.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the advertising manager. Other inquiries and complaints should be directed to the editor-in-chief. Copies of the Student Publications Committee inquiry/complaint policy are available at the Gateway office, Milo Hall Student Center Room 115.

The Gateway is funded as follows: 70 percent advertising revenue, 30 percent student fees allocated by Student Government.

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Gateway

60th and Dodge Street
MBSC Room 115
Omaha, NE 68182-0197

Front Desk

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EC2 birth control gaining support

Robert Tisdell

EC2. It is not the newest sci-fi movie, nor does it appear to be the latest word in hippie vocabulary.

EC2 is the name of an emergency contraceptive that has recently become more widely available and easier to obtain for women through Planned Parenthood of Omaha and Council Bluffs.

"EC2 is a high-dosage birth control pill" containing the synthetic hormone levonorgestrel (for the naturally occurring hormone progesterin), says Beverly Todd Nolte, vice president of communications for Planned Parenthood.

It is prescribed for women to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Its prescribed usage is to be taken orally within 72 hours of unprotected sex or contraceptive failure. It does not end a pregnancy, but rather prevents one.

One misnomer that is widely accepted is that EC2 is or is somewhat similar to the "morning after pill," Mifeprex or RU-486.

Information from Planned Parenthood and Student Health Services may help clear up some of the confusion about the variety of contraceptive and birth control pills now available.

EC2 or Plan B, as it is also referred to, is intended to be used as a back-up plan for women already using some form of contraceptive, be it the pill, a condom or another method. In the event that one of these fails or a woman forgets to take her birth control pill and has intercourse without taking earlier precautions, EC2 is a way to help prevent an unwanted pregnancy. It is most effective if taken within the first 24 hours after intercourse, but it has a viability window of opportunity of up to 72 hours. A second dosage must be administered within 24 hours.

It prevents pregnancy by "delaying ovulation, inhibiting fertilization or preventing implantation of a fertilized egg in the uterus. All of these events are considered by medical societies to be occurrences before pregnancy," according to Planned Parenthood's Fact Sheet on Emergency Contraceptives.

On the other side of the spectrum is RU-486, otherwise known as the abortion pill. RU-486 does not prevent a pregnancy, but aborts a pregnancy within the first nine weeks of conception. RU-486 breaks down the lining of the woman's uterus, causing its shedding and then further induces the

woman into contractions, which expels the embryo.

EC2 is said to have fewer side effects than the earlier types of prescribed birth control pills; however, its side effects do include nausea, vomiting and breast tenderness.

Planned Parenthood is now giving out signed prescriptions of this drug for women to keep handy during times of emergency. It is the goal of Planned Parenthood to have a prescription for EC2 in the hands of every woman of reproductive age for emergency situations that may arise.

Responses around campus to this bold act were varied.

"As a feminist and as a mother, I want to live in a world where children and families (in all of their forms) thrive," says Karen Falconer Al-Hindi, director of UNO's Women's Studies. "EC2 (emergency contraception) appears to be a useful means to promote goals and such a world; in fact, physicians and women acting on their own have for years used birth control pills in the manner now being marketed as EC. It seems only fair to get the word out to those who need the information." ☺

recipient.

When Paulson was young, she told her father she wanted to be an organ donor, but he told her he would not let anyone have his little girl's organs. Little did he know one day she would require another's organ.

Paulson was diagnosed with primary sclerosing cholangitis, something very rare for a young Caucasian woman to be diagnosed with, because the disease usually affects African American males between 45 and 50.

Instead of heading to a tropical destination her first spring break of college, Paulson came to the Lied Transplant Center at UNMC for an evaluation to see if she was sick enough to be placed on the list to receive an organ. She was denied.

A year later, during spring break of her sophomore year, cancer cells were found forming in her liver and she was put on the list.

She waited nine months for an organ donor.

"I didn't know how to feel because I know someone else had to die for me to live," Paulson said.

She was only in the hospital five days for transplant and recovery. The day she got out was the day of the annual Nebraska transplant recipient reunion. She attended, the newest organ recipient ever to attend.

"I always knew I'd be fine," she said. "It's been almost a year and I feel just great."

Unfortunately, many on the waiting list for an organ aren't as fortunate as Tate and Paulson. Billings said an average of 15 to 17 people die in the U.S. each day while waiting for a transplant.

She also said simply signing the back of your license does not guarantee a part of you will live on — you must tell your family you wish to donate, because under Nebraska state law, the final decision is up to them.

"Organ and tissue donation is so important," Paulson said. "I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for organ and tissue donation." ☺

unanimous vote. He replaces graduating Sen. Jon Shrader.

Sophomore class Sen. Chris Shelton was elected to replace Wilde as chair of the Campus Relations Committee, but following the controversy over Wilde's appointment to CAO, the position will remain filled by Wilde for the time-being.

Legislation passed at the meeting included senate resolutions 01/02- 21, 22, 24 and 26.

Those pieces of legislation allocated money to purchase a new "Code Blue" emergency light; discontinued the Student Government's regular advertisements in *The Gateway*; resolved to place more ashtrays and/or trash cans outside of Arts and Sciences Hall; and approved the efforts of the Student Government's Rules Committee in changing the Student Government's Constitution.

Seven letters of statement were also passed at the meeting. Five of those were commendations: three for exiting and former Student Government members and the other two for Frank Forbes, a retiring professor of finance, banking and law who often collaborated with student organizations and for the late Director of Facilities Management and Planning, Neil Morgensen.

The remaining two letters of statement determined meeting dates and times for summer Student Government meetings and voiced the Student Government's wish for an increased security presence on UNO's south campus.

During the evening's open forum, Joyce Crockett, director of training, addressed the proposed technology fee increase of \$1 per credit hour.

She shared the results of a student survey that was taken regarding the fee and answered questions posed by the members of the Senate.

Survey results indicated 64 percent of students (excluding engineering and information science and technology majors) supported an increase in fees, which would allow for a license to Microsoft Operating System, Office, Front Page and Visual Studio

software. At least one senator expressed doubt as to whether a survey sample of 800 students was enough to adequately reflect mass student opinion on the matter. Crockett, however, pointed out that October's student elections had failed to draw even 800 voters.

The increase from \$5 to \$6 per credit hour would allow both UNO and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to enter into the agreement with Microsoft, which requires at least 30,000 students for the contract.

UNL cannot participate in the agreement without UNO. Student Government voted against the proposed increase at an earlier meeting, and a motion to revisit the issue was not met with a second.

Crockett said the universities could go through with the agreement without the Student Government's support. The increase in fees would, however, have to be approved by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents at its June meeting.

UNO student and Sudanese refugee Kang Kang also spoke during the open forum, detailing his journey from Africa to Omaha. ☺

Do You Have Asthma?

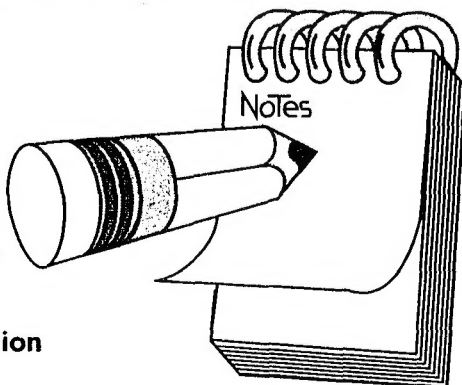
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opinions&editorials

When exams fail

Karen Heller
Knight Ridder Newspapers

In general, I am opposed to standardized tests. As with fruit flies and colonoscopies, it's easy to understand why they exist. That doesn't mean you have to like them.

Standardized tests, one benchmark for evaluating all, drain the creativity out of teaching, inhibit independent thought, and thwart risk while making the world less safe from torpid analogies.

When in an adult's life do you feel the need to say, "You know, 'bungler' is to 'finesse' as 'gossip' is to 'reserve'?" In a job interview?

Take a gander at samples from those charming monopolists at the College Board — the answer above appeared on a 1998 PSAT, the preliminary college admissions test — and a colonoscopy starts to look inviting.

Educational institutions have a wicked tendency toward uniformity when they should be celebrating that most ignored of differences, intellectual diversity.

Teaching is one of life's greatest challenges, but I've known parents called in for conferences because their children were prone to daydreaming, rampant imaginations and the inability to stay continuously focused for eight hours. One friend, after hearing a litany of so-called problems from a first-grade teacher, wisely replied, "The condition you have just described is called B-O-Y. There is no known cure."

Uniformity has become so mandated, public-school students in many cities are now wearing identical button-downs while, in an ironic twist, many pricey private institutions have abandoned plaids and drab shoes. Their students now dress like unrepentant slob.

Makes sense. If you're spending thousands on tuition, might as well save dough on Nikes, Earl jeans, and Kate Spade totes.

The public schools argue that uniforms

reduce the emphasis on appearance, so that students are more focused on learning.

A nice idea. Like many of them, this works in theory only.

Just ask a Catholic-school graduate how much time she spent circumventing the dress code.

Now, some schools would like to start a new set of testing — mandatory random drug testing. The school district in the tiny town of Tecumseh, Okla., in Pottawatomie County (a Faulknerian name if there ever was one), argued before the U.S. Supreme Court last month for random testing of students engaged in extracurricular activities, including band or chess club.

In 1995, the court approved, by a 6-3 decision, drug testing of student athletes, meant to reduce injuries. A decision is not expected until July, and experts believe the same court is poised to favor extension of random testing, which would have wide ramifications for the nation's public schools.

But the school district wants to test the wrong students. Trumpeters, debate champions, Latin-club presidents, and other achievers engaged in extracurricular activities don't tend to be the students stoked in the halls all day.


Frankly, if teachers can't already tell which kids are experiencing an altered state of consciousness, they might want to consider a different line of work. Kid looks out of it? Send him home or to detention.

We've turned teachers into therapists, social workers, cheerleaders, baby-sitters, substitute parents, role models and etiquette advisers. Now they're supposed to become nares?

And people wonder why there's a teacher shortage.

Simply put, drug testing should not be done in the schools.

It should be done at home.

It's not the school's job. It's not the teacher's problem. It's the family's responsibility. 

Just like the movies . . .

The struggle to really live

Josh Bashara

Manic Digression

This being the final installment of my column for the school year, I have decided to write about something personal to me, something that I believe is actually very personal to all of us: the pursuit of a life well-lived. A life full of experiences and colorful anecdotes — with just enough pain and misery to season yourself — but to be comfortable and non-regretful at the end of the road.

Why can't things happen like we see in the movies? I wonder sometimes. I go to school, then to work, and then home again only to repeat this cycle day after day. Sure, there are eventful times mixed here and there, but for the most part I (and I'm sure many of you) can look back to the past and wish things had been different. I would prefer not to look upon myself as an intensely boring person, which is why, for the life of me, I can't figure out why things don't happen to me like I see in the movies.

Why have I never playfully chased a beautiful girl in the night rain, tripping over ourselves and falling down laughing, only to look into each other's eyes and slowly bring our lips together? Why haven't I ever been involved in a dramatic plot of conspiracy, able to use only my wits to overcome the odds and save the day? What about natural disasters like tornadoes, earthquakes, or even a blizzard that cripples the city, therefore initiating me to spring into action and become a hero?

Action-inducing contingencies aside, I can't even remember the last time I had to deal with anything more intellectually exhausting than a mid-term exam. The only thing I get that's even slightly emotionally taxing is a breakup with a girlfriend, which just plain sucks.

I want to be that guy, though — the guy who saves the day, who gets the girl, and gets the satisfaction of knowing he's led a fulfilling life.

Maybe I should count my blessings that my life has been relatively normal.


After all, who needs all the drama? Well, apparently all of us, since we continue going to the movies and reading books, watching people we want to be get into situations that we wish we could be a part of. You might say, "Well hey, it's a movie. That stuff doesn't really happen in real life." I beg to differ.

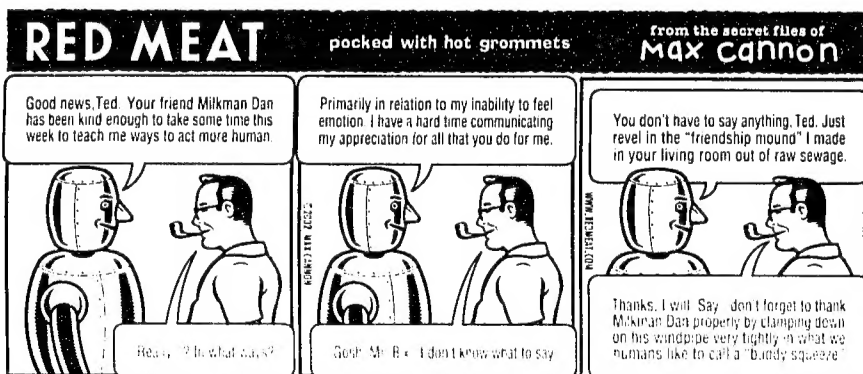
Where do you think writers and directors get their inspiration from? Movies are an art form just like anything else, and art imitates life and vice versa. Movies may be an embellished, amplified form of what we wish life could be like, but just the same, they do come from our imaginations. They are the product of our experiences and everyone before us. But I digress.

Life as you've seen in the movies is only as possible as you want it to be. We live according to such social stigmas and under so much restraint these days that we are conditioned to act in the conservative manner that most of us do. Inside, our very beings are screaming at us to wake up and live the way we know we want to, instead of the way we've learned to. Whether it's that we don't want to look stupid, or that we are scared to take the leaps we know we should, we place this imposition upon ourselves of expression only through art, and not through the way in which we live our lives.

Go and blast down the interstate with the top down, screaming with your friends at the top of your lungs, not caring what anyone else thinks. Go and find the girl, and on a rainy night, chase her down and kiss her. Go to a party and make sure no one ever forgets you for the rest of their lives. Go and start a revolution.

The world is your stage, so go and live your life just like you see in the movies.

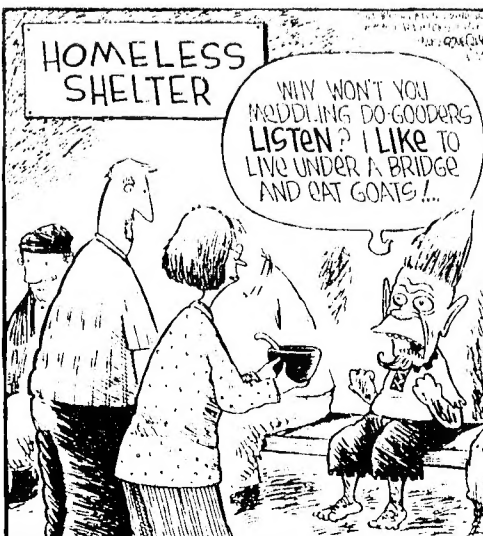
Manic Digression will be on hiatus for the summer, but will be back this fall. If you have any questions or comments (or even anything you would like to see written about in the future), please send an e-mail to manicdigression@gateway.unomaha.edu. 




Write to The Gateway before it's too late



Speed Bump Dave Coverly





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College bingeing is no frat-party lark; it's killing thousands of students

10 reasons to rally for change

Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

For parents of high school seniors sorting through college offers this month, the final choice often boils down to picturing how a daughter or son might fit in at the new campus.

Studies, sports, social life — it's all in the mix at college-decision time.

What parent, though, would ever imagine this scene: their child falling out of a dorm window drunk, or dying in an alcohol-related car wreck? Maybe more parents should.

That's one lesson to be found in the troubling findings of the latest and most comprehensive survey of the impact of campus drinking.

The study, released last week by a federally appointed task force of the National Institutes of Health, concludes that more than 1,400 college students die annually as a result of injuries and accidents linked to drinking.

Nor are the statistics on injuries and assaults any easier to swallow: More than 70,000 students are sexually assaulted or date-raped, and 500,000 are injured in accidents and fights due to drinking.

That's four students killed on an average day — what the nation's top education official rightly described as "alarming evidence of the devastating impact" of campus drinking.

So the study keeps up the drumbeat for remedies that can rein in a lethal campus drinking culture. Last month, a Harvard study showed that — while more students are abstaining — there are just as many who down several drinks at a sitting as in the early 1990s.

And when this school year started, the American Medical Association reported that

95 percent of parents viewed binge drinking as a serious threat to students. How right they were.

With its statistical analysis of fatalities, injuries, assaults and reckless drinking-related behavior like unprotected sex, the NIH task force casts a harsh light on undergrad boozing as merely a rite of passage.

The wreckage of young lives stands in sharp contrast to the gyrations of televised spring-break revelers, or the *Animal House* story line of the latest National Lampoon movie.

For every parent who reasons that they celebrated occasionally — and still graduated — today's college officials offer a portrait of a much different campus.

Binge drinking, where it occurs, isn't reserved for weekend nights.

"Now it's Thursday night and Wednesday evening. There's a lot more of it around — occasions where drinking is the main thing," explains Graham Spanier, president of Pennsylvania State University, a leader in the fight for solutions.

The NIH study points to strategies that hold promise for coming to grips with the excesses of college drinking. Many are being tested at local colleges and around the nation: alcohol-free events, individual counseling, community partnerships to stem off-campus alcohol abuse, peer-to-peer assurances that most students drink moderately or abstain.

Note, those initiatives don't dwell ghoulishly on the dangers of drinking. Such warnings, say researchers, aren't effective with students too young to grasp their own mortality.

But as a community, let's not forget the stakes can be life-and-death. ☹

Ralph Nader

At civic rallies we are holding around the country, the talk is of the need for change, for the pursuit of greater justice as a precondition for the pursuit of greater happiness.

Filling large arenas such as the Rose Garden in Portland, Ore., or the Sundome in Tampa, Fla., these gatherings, together with tables by hundreds of local and state social justice groups, are conveying that more citizen time is needed; that if millions of Americans could devote a small amount of time, major changes long overdue would occur to add fairness, productivity, respect for the environment, and community cultural revival for more sustainable self-reliance, as in energy, food and shelter.

There is nothing out of reach or utopian about these objectives. They are well within the resources, intelligence and values of our society. I summarized them in my new book, *Crashing the Party: Taking on the Corporate Government in an Age of Surrender*, on page 319 of the book where these first-stage goals for a better

America and stronger democratic tools are listed, to wit:

- Enact legislation that mandates publicly financed public elections and broad reforms of the electoral process. By

see Change, page 11

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Mercury Red breaks into local scene

Josh Bashara

A band just starting to gain attention in the Omaha local music scene,

but by no means new to it, rock band Mercury Red recently released its first album, *Train to Nowhere*. Although the band has been playing together for more than five years, this spring marked the release of the long-awaited debut album from the band that has been a paradox to categorize by promoters and agents alike.

"We just decided we wanted to be in a band one day, and we just got really lucky and happened to meet up together in weird ways," says bassist John Nye.

"Yeah, it was kinda weird," adds drummer Chris Chamberlin. "It was 1995 I think, and I met [singer/guitarist] Dave in summer school."

"Then, like two days after they met, they came to D-Rocks and I was chilling just playing the bass," says Nye. "We all started talking, then went back to my house to listen to this death-metal band I was in."

"They really sucked," laughs Chamberlin. "We were like, 'Okay man, you gotta blow these guys off and come play with us,' and so we all started practicing."

"Yeah, and we met [guitarist] Colin [Hartin] just walking down the street one day," says singer Dave Koziol.

"We played a lot of our first shows at little coffeeshouses like Stage Right," reflects Nye. "Then, after a couple of years of playing like that, the band broke up because of drugs and alcohol."

"And females!" Chamberlin declares. "But we broke up and did our own shit for a couple years, then sort of just met back up and decided to start playing again."

Whatever fate brought Mercury Red together, the members are thankful it did. Similar goals and motivation, such as the love for playing music just to play it, are shared among this early-20s group. "A love of music is the leading thing," says Nye. "But I also like to entertain, which is another big part of it."

"I'd say for me, it's half self-fulfillment, and half just inspiring other people," Chamberlin says.

"Yeah, and I just like to play guitar," Hartin chimes in.

"The only time I really feel alive is when I'm performing," Koziol says. "To me, it's the only thing that's really important in life. I just feel like you gotta do your own thing

regardless of what the majority does. It's about having no boundaries, protocols, or exclusions — just people who can care less about bullshit, that are true to themselves. We don't really claim to be one thing or another; we just try to play the music that comes from our souls; nothing more, nothing less."

The band's debut album, *Train to Nowhere*, is an eclectic blend of melodic hooks and emotional punches that together screams at you to wake up from the corporate slumber you've been a part of, and rejuvenate yourself with some true rock music.

"We've worked over a year on it, we recorded it all ourselves, as well as mixing and producing it," Chamberlin beams. "It's our creation and we're really proud of it."

"It's an introspective EP about various things I've gone through — I don't believe in bullshit lyrics," Koziol says. "We mesh a lot of the lyrics with the guitars. Our music is a mixture of combined elements. It's a broad range from just rocking out with everything we've got to really intricate and reflective songs."

Mercury Red continues touring locally in Omaha, and regionally as far as Grand Island and Sioux City.

"We're trying to keep ourselves as busy as we can," Nye remarks.

"We really believe in making a connection with the audience, so when you walk away from the show, you've gotten something out of it," adds Koziol. "In some way, we hope you may have been changed, or somehow mentally heightened somehow."

When asked about the future, Koziol says that "We're sending out our album to several different labels, and we hope to eventually set up a tour."

"Yeah, we hope to tour a lot and get our name out there," Nye says. "That's really important."

Mercury Red tour dates and info are available at www.mercuryredmusic.net or on the SLAM Omaha Web site. The band continues to beef up its tour roster with venues around town such as the Ranch Bowl and Sokol Underground. The album can be purchased at live shows, as well as Drastic Plastic and Anarchy Comics, both in the Old Market.

Before I left, my trademark question was raised to Koziol: Describe your band in one phrase or word.

With a smile and a look of conviction, he replies, "It's just really intense music that's gonna take you on a journey." ☺



photo by Jon Shaw

The women behind Dinker's Bar, home of "Omaha's Best Burger," from left to right: Joyce Synowiecki, owner, Cristy Neneman, niece, Kerry Meisinger, daughter, Lisa Emsick, daughter.

Omaha's best burger

Bobby Camerlinck

I finally get an assignment I can sink my teeth into — the quest for Omaha's best cheeseburger. I had a lot of suggestions from fellow students and friends alike. Like a carnivorous predator, I hit the streets searching for the chief cheeseburger, the highest hamburger, the supreme steakwich.

My first stop was at Louie M's Burger Lust. It was well-recommended by many other UNO students and seemed like a no-brainer.

The establishment had 19 different variations of individually made hamburgers; it was like a candy store for meat lovers. All these tasty delicacies were under \$5.50, too.

There were Bacon Cheddar Burgers, Cajun Burgers and Italian Burgers. I went for the Three-Cheese Burger with mozzarella, cheddar and parmesan, which was another great decision. It arrived after a minimal wait with a plate of lettuce, tomatoes, onions and pickles on the side. The bun was lightly buttered and toasted (a nice touch) and the meat was well-seasoned and juicy. The patty was about an inch thick and extremely tender. Unfortunately, the thin fries were way over-cooked and barely edible. I managed to choke down only a couple before my Dr. Pepper was exhausted.

Second stop along the highway to heart disease was Stella's. This little red bar and grill atop the hill was a quaint place that had making burgers down to a science. Stella's originally opened in 1938 and moved to its current location in 1949. I'd say 50 years of burger making gives it quite an edge over other beef eateries.

After a little longer wait, I soon had a huge cheeseburger served on a napkin with a large white bun and a bowl of their famous homemade french fries baked from — believe or not — REAL potatoes. They cut the little suckers themselves and these puppies are awesome. The price tag wasn't too bad either — \$2.50 a burger. That's a

price I can drink to and will because Stella's serves alcohol — bonus.

The burger wasn't greasy, but it was so juicy I had to use six napkins to finish it. The meat was a little pink on the inside, which warrants caution, but I washed it down with a frosty beverage just be safe.

Not much has changed over the years at this fine burger house.

"We changed buns about three times," Pam Cole, Stella's grand-daughter says. "You can never find a bun that everybody likes. This one falls apart, that one is too thick."

"You can never find a bun that everybody likes. This one falls apart, that one is too thick." — Pam Cole, owner, Stella's

"It's fine with me," adds her son, Travis Cole, who had to set down his burger to shake my hand. "I like this one."

My last little trek was to Dinker's — South Omaha's worst-kept secret. The sign

outside reads "Omaha's Best Burger" and they aren't too far off. Everybody loves this place and once you've eaten here it's easy to see why. Dinker's has been around since 1963 and the food rocks.

The burgers are so big it's tough to finish in one sitting. The hand-made quarter-pound patty is incredibly fresh and juicy. The amount of fries I got with one order was enough for two people and this place serves beer, too ... yahoo!!

It was \$3.75 for the delicious Double Cheeseburger and if you've had one, you'll never order anything else on their menu. The meat was well-cooked without being overdone and the waitress fast and attentive.

"My wife and kids love this place and we've been coming here for years," self-proclaimed burger lover and retired fireman Ray Kuta says.

And the results are in on the pickle scale:

- Dinker's Bar, 2368 S. 29th St. — Big winner with 5 pickles
- Stella's, 106 Galvin Rd. South — Not too shabby with 4 and 1/2 pickles
- Louie M's Burger Lust, 1718 Vinton St. — Quite respectable with 3 pickles ☺

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CD reviews

Chris Kramer

The Gadjits
Today is My Day
(Thick)

If you're tired of people saying that bands like Puddle of Mudd and Staind are restoring rock n' roll, then the Gadjits are for you.

Through reverb-soaked guitars, blistering organ and one of the largest rhythm sections this side of the Mason-Dixon line, the soulful vocals of brothers Brandon and Zach Phillips and Hilary Allen spill through the speakers, letting you know they are far too cool for *TRL*.

This is The Gadjits' first full-length since being dumped by its former label, punk/ska dealer Hellcat Records. After a drastic change in sound, the band was told it could revert or be left behind. The band chose the former.

Rather than sticking to the sounds that got the band where it was, it adopted the sounds of the bands that got the Gadjits playing music in the first place — bands like The Who and AC/DC.

This album is pure rock n' roll — the way it was meant to sound. No baritone droning, no Christ poses. Just foot-tapping, hip-shaking, head-shaking rock n' roll. *Today is My Day* is 13 songs about girls, growing up and Waffle House.

Grade: A

Elvis Costello
When I Was Cruel
(Island)

When I Was Cruel is Elvis Costello's long-awaited return to rock music. Billed as his "first loud record since 199(?)," Costello had fans and critics alike on the edge of their collective seat in anticipation for this record.

So does it deliver?

You'd better believe it. Costello does what others do and he does it half again. If he says he is making a rock record, he makes more rock than you can handle.

But don't expect this to be a carbon copy of records like *My Aim is True* and *This Year's Model*. Costello continues to innovate and reinvent himself, while still maintaining the attributes that made him so endearing to nerds and geeks alike back in 1977.

He's still smart, sincere and snippy all at once, but now he's employing the tools of the 21st century. Looped samples, processed drumbeats and house rhythms provide the backdrop for many of the songs on *Cruel*, providing a fresh palate for Costello's brilliantly crafted songs.

From the first song, it paradoxically sounds so much like his old music, yet so wonderfully new, you will find yourself listening over and over just to get a grasp on what is entering your eardrums so pleasantly. And once your grasp is firm, you will still find yourself listening over and over, falling more and more deeply in love.

Grade: A+

Bonnie Raitt
Silver Lining
(Capitol)

Bonnie Raitt is a pioneer. Really, I read it on her Web site. But exactly what is being pioneered on *Silver Lining* is still a bit unclear to me.

Whatever it is, it's a hybrid of blues, country, adult contemporary and classic rock. But it's more of a mixed salad than a melting pot, with each song choosing a different sub-genre from the shelf to bring back and share with the group.

The album's opener, "Fool's Game," could easily find rotation on a country and western station. Meanwhile, the title track sounds more like an Enya song than anything else.

Not to say that any of these songs are bad. They are, for the most part, well-written and well-executed. But this has a feel closer to that of a greatest hits album or tribute album than a regular studio album.

And this is one of the few albums where I will say the addition of synthesizers may have been a bad idea. Somehow, they just fail to mesh with the twangy guitars that saturate the album.

The album is a fair listen if it's your cup of tea, but Raitt could have easily set these songs aside for a while and made two or three different albums dedicated to each sound she attempts here.

Grade: C+ Ⓜ

Sheep raves to phone sex addicts Hollywood just doesn't make movies about this stuff

Mike Machian

Any idiot who owns a camcorder can be called a filmmaker. I myself did it for a few years. But it doesn't really matter if no one watches you (that whole tree falling in the forest thing).

Cornfed Video plans to rectify that. That's right — I said rectify. How? With its *It's Eating My Head* video compilation.

It's Eating My Head contains 10 independent films made by people living in the same state as you (that would be Nebraska). The films cover such possibly interesting subjects as soft-core porn star Shannon Tweed's contributions to society, a creature that destroys an army, the almost-exciting world of remote-controlled model airplane enthusiasts, plus other subjects too interesting to mention here.

By now, you're probably wondering what the hell Cornfed Video is. Dorothy Booraem, a wrangler at Cornfed Video, describes it as a "distribution group that started for all these people we know that make short films."

The goal is to build awareness for the "local indie film scene" in the Lincoln and Omaha areas. Booraem compares Cornfed Video to "those record companies that people start in their basement ... for all their friends that are in punk rock bands."

Your chance to see *It's Eating My Head* comes May 5 at the Joyo Theater at 6102 Havelock Ave. in Lincoln. You're in the door for \$2.


see Movies, page 11

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Maverick hurlers stymie SDSU Jackrabbits

Paul Freehand

Baseball

Neither April showers nor Jackrabbits could keep UNO's baseball team from extending its lead atop the North Central Conference.

Unhindered by the weekend weather, the Mavericks beat South Dakota State 4-0 and 5-2 to extend their lead atop the NCC. With less than two weeks left in the regular season, the Mavs hold a two-game lead over Augustana and a three-game lead over SDSU.

Maverick game one starter Kyle Funk kept the Jacks off the scoreboard, throwing a two-hit shutout while walking one batter and striking out seven. SDSU starter Rob Hirschhoff loaded the bases with Mavs in the bottom of the second inning, but none of the runners would come in to score.

UNO broke the game open in the third inning. Following a walk and a single, Hirschhoff hit his fourth batter of the game to load the bases and walked the next batter to give UNO a 1-0 lead. Justin Cook scored on an error and David Kros hit a sacrifice fly to score Wil Guidebeck as the Mavs stretched their lead to 3-0 before the Jackrabbits could stop the rally. The game's scoring was completed in the bottom of the sixth when Eric Gordon singled home Ty Fleck to make the score 4-0.

Gordon went 2-3 with a run scored and an RBI to lead the Mavericks, while Cook was 1-2 with a run scored and John Shoemaker was 1-2 with an RBI. Funk improved his season record to 6-2 with the win.

One big inning gave UNO all the offense it would need in game two. With runners on second and third, Patrick Johnston hit a single to score Fleck and Jake Wurth. Dan Persons then singled home Johnston, who had stolen second base, to put UNO up 3-0. Gordon put a cap




Eric Gordon crashes into SDSU catcher Chris Studer at the same time as the ball (upper right). Gordon was deemed safe on the play.

on the inning's scoring with a double to leftfield that plated Persons and put the Mavs up 4-0.

SDSU countered with runs in the fourth and fifth innings, but Wurth's homerun to leftfield set the final score at 5-2. James Peters pitched five innings for the win, giving up two earned runs on six hits and five walks while striking out three. Peters' win moved his record to 5-1, while Nate McCabe came on in the seventh to earn his sixth save of the season.

Johnston went 1-3 with two RBI and a run to lead UNO (28-11, 10-2), while Persons was 1-3 with an RBI and a run. Wurth had a homerun, two runs and an RBI and Gordon went 1-2 with an RBI and a double.

UNO will close out its regular season on a road trip that will feature five games in three locales. The Mavs will play at Northwest Missouri State in one nine-inning contest on Thursday before playing conference doubleheaders at Morningside and South Dakota on Friday and Saturday. The NCC postseason tournament begins May 9 at the home of the regular season conference champion. 



Justin Cook takes out SDSU catcher Chris Studer at home plate during the first game of Sunday's doubleheader. Studer could not handle the throw and Cook was declared safe on the play.

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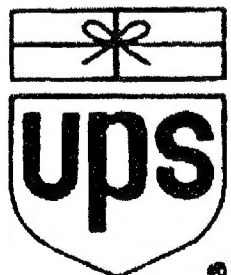
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Raf Czarnecki

Intramurals

Before I attend to analyzing a whole lot of "Pikeage" that was displayed during Sunday's Men's League Intramural Softball Tournament Final, I'd like to address one Bobby Camerlinek.

If you missed it (not like anyone doesn't read *The Gateway* or anything), Bobby's critique of *The Scorpion King* last week was very well-done for the most part. The only problem I had with Mr. Camerlinek's evaluation of the Rock's first starring role was the last sentence that read "this Conan the Barbarian wanna-be." Sorry Bobby, but nobody calls out the Rock in my newspaper. Memo to Bobby: In five years, when the Rock has three box office smash hits under his belt and takes in a cool \$10 million for three months worth of kicking people's asses while swapping spit with *Maxim* magazine cover girls, you'll still be writing about how the WWF needs a hero. Bottom line: "Know your role, jabroni."

Now to the action at Caniglia Field, where two teams familiar with each other took the field at approximately 4:20 (the fact that a

few officials and myself were munching away on hot dogs has no affiliation with the game's starting time for those scoring at home) to decide who's got game. The home team went by the name of the Pikes and the road team went by the name of, uh, the Pikes. Separating the 20-some-odd fraternity members into two groups by creatively sticking a letter after each team's name is how things are done in the world of intramural sports. With that said, Pike A came into Sunday's final as the heavy favorites against their its talented "brothers," Pike B.


Instead of breaking out the tape recorder to capture the always "riveting" pre-game comments of the intramural ballers at UNO, I went with more of the casual "get it done yourself" method that I find a bit more convenient when shedding some light on the colorful prime time performers who make the game worth watching when putting together an intramural sports chronicle while having a Sunday night dinner with *The Sopranos*. Can you say "run-on?"

Anyhow, the heart of Pike A's batting order gave Pike B pitcher Mike "Does anybody on my team like me?" Sautter all he can handle early on. Led by the hot bats of Ryan Mack

"Attack", Jeff "I am big" Hansen and Ben "Don't call me Justin Timberlake" Giese, Pike A jumped out to an early 12-3 lead after three innings of play.

Pike B responded after centerfielder Jim Thompson's best diving Jim Edmonds impression sparked his ball club. In the top of the fourth inning, Pike B cut away at Pike A's lead when, ah, forgot to write their names down. Well take it from me, there was some big-time play-making going on and Pike B scored a few runs.

Only problem for Pike B's rally, however, was that Ryan "I'm the best player on the field at all times" Mack was sporting a Pike A T-shirt. After all the dust and smoke had cleared, Mack finished off his counterparts with a handful of blasts that ended up in the stands of Caniglia Field. In other words, homeruns and ground rule doubles beat ground balls and fly-outs to the shortstop.

Tournament summary: Pike A is crowned softball tournament champions, posting a convincing 16-7 drubbing of that other Pike team. Ryan "I'll be signing autographs at the student center all this week" Mack is your tournament MVP and I'm out. 

Tracksters compete at Drake Relays

Paul Freeland

Track

UNO's outdoor track and field team pitted 10 of its athletes against some of the best the region had to offer as the Mavs took part in the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa.

UNO athletes put in strong showings, especially in the relay events. The Mavs' 1600-meter relay team of Carly Lambert, Amanda Mahan, Syd Merz and Andrea Walker finished second in its heat with a time of 3:52.60 to qualify for the event finals. In the finals, it bettered the time to a mark of 3:51.94 to take fourth place.

Rita Kitchens joined Lambert, Merz and Walker in the 400-meter relay preliminaries where they finished fourth in their heat with a time of 48.34 seconds. Kitchens, Mandy Neneman, Laura Gass and Darcy Preston teamed up



UNO's Jennifer Rutan (right) leaps ahead during a 400-meter event earlier this year.

in the sprint medley relay, where they were 16th with a time of 4:15.11.

Lambert also competed individually in the 100-meter dash prelims, finishing third in her heat with a time of 12.07. Michelle Ellingson claimed 13th place in the 5000-meter run with a mark of 17:34.75, while Melissa Meisinger jumped 37 feet 4 inches to place 22nd in the triple jump.

UNO returns to action today at the North Central Conference

heptathlon meet in Fargo, N.D., before traveling to Sioux Falls, S.D., to take part in the Howard Wood Relays. ☎

Photo by Chris Machan

Softball wins sixth straight, CMSU tourney washed out

Paul Freeland

Softball

UNO's softball team closed out its regular season on a six-game winning streak after sweeping South Dakota and playing one day of the Central Missouri State tournament.

Day two of the CMSU tournament was canceled due to rain. The Mavs beat South Dakota 10-2 and 1-0 at home while topping Truman State 5-1 and Southwest Baptist 2-0 in Missouri.

Krista Unger went the distance for UNO in game one against South Dakota, pitching six innings while allowing two runs on four hits. Amanda Lehotak scored on a wild pitch in the bottom of the first inning to open the game's scoring and the Mavs took the lead for good with three runs in the second. Trailing 8-0, the Coyotes got on the board with two runs in the top of the fifth, but it would be all the offense the visitors would muster.

Nicole Vos led the Mavericks offensively, going 4-4 with two doubles, two runs scored and an RBI, while Lehotak was 2-3 with three RBI, two doubles and two runs. Erin Drinnin was 2-3 with two doubles, two RBI and two runs and Tiffany Jones went 2-4 with two RBI and a run.

USD's defense tightened after committing five errors in the first game as game two was a stalemate. Emily Adkins held the Coyotes scoreless over five and one-third innings, giving up five hits and walking one batter while striking out three, before Unger came on in relief. Unger pitched a perfect one and two-thirds innings to pick up

the win. Kelsey Duckworth hit the game-winner for UNO in the bottom of the seventh, ripping a single to left centerfield that scored Vos and gave the Mavs the 1-0 win.

Unger continued UNO's roll towards the postseason in the CMSU tournament, allowing one run on four hits as the Mavs beat Truman State 5-1. Unger struck out six TSU batters while walking two to move her season record to 29-6.

Neither club had managed any offense until the top of the fifth, when Truman State took a 1-0 lead on an RBI double. The Mavericks responded in force, however, quickly loading the bases in the bottom half of the inning before an out was recorded. Drinnin then singled to centerfield, scoring Alissa Magistretti and Tracy Hortman. A pair of Bulldog errors allowed two more runs to score before Vos hit an RBI single to cap a five-run inning for the Mavericks.

Drinnin went 2-4 with two RBI and a run, while Vos was 3-3 with an RBI. Sarah Scheppers was 2-3 with a run and Kelsey Duckworth went 3-4 with an RBI.

Adkins scattered seven hits over seven innings of work against Southwest Baptist to move her season record to 13-0 and pick up her fourth complete game shutout. Kelly Moats broke the ice in the bottom of the sixth with a solo homerun for UNO (42-6, 13-3 NCC) and Jones capped the game's scoring with an RBI single that scored Scheppers. Moats' homer was her fifth of the season.

UNO will return to action Friday as it travels to Grand Forks, N.D., to take part in the North Central Conference postseason tournament. ☎

From Tennis, Page 1

points, Minnesota State-Mankato finished fifth with 29 points, South Dakota State was sixth at 20 points and Augustana finished seventh with 13 points.

Nichols said the race for third place behind the conference's two established powers came down to UNO and SCSU.

"Our realistic goal going into the tournament was to finish third," Nichols said. "As far as I'm concerned, the team really stepped up and met that goal. We had lost to St. Cloud State 7-2 about a month ago in a dual, so we were probably about the fourth seed going into the tournament. When I saw that we were tied with St. Cloud going into the final day, I knew it would go down to the wire."

UNO got off to a flying start on the first day of the three-day tournament, posting an 8-1 record over the first day's play. Day two proved to be much rougher for the Mavs, though, as the team went 2-7 with Sara Huls and Shannon Dinovo recording the lone wins.

Entering day three, UNO had one entry in the championship match, seven entries in third-place matches and one entry in a fifth-place match. Dinovo fell 6-1, 6-3 to top-seeded Mary Cimino of Northern Colorado in the No. 6 singles championship, while Huls cruised to a 6-1, 6-0 win over SDSU's Jen Tidwell in the No. 3 singles fifth-place match.

UNO went 5-2 in third-place matches to seal their third-place finish. Senior co-captain Bridgette Komasincki beat North Dakota's Marissa Hangslaben 6-2, 6-3 at No. 1 singles, while Jenika Schmidt, the Mavs' other co-captain, fell to SCSU's Sara Eull 6-7 (7-2), 6-2, 6-4 at No. 2 singles. Mikaila Spalding won 6-4, 6-3 over SDSU's Laura Klinghammer at No. 4 singles and Lindsay Henjum beat Katie Zika of SCSU 6-0, 7-6 (10-8) at No. 5 singles.

Komasincki and Schmidt each closed out their college tennis careers on a high note. Komasincki teamed up with Spalding to take third at No. 1 doubles with a 9-7 win, while Schmidt joined forces with Huls to win 8-1 at No. 2 doubles. Henjum and Dinovo were bested 8-1 at No. 3 doubles.

Nichols said he was surprised that UNO's program, only in its second year, had risen as far as it had and that he was excited about the future of the program.

"To be honest, I didn't know that the team would be this good at this point in time," Nichols said. "However, with every practice and every day this year, the team seemed to keep getting better and better. What was great was that everyone seemed to play their best during the conference tournament. Some of the matches today had the best tennis our team has played this year."

"The future looks very bright for our program right now. I'm already looking forward to starting next season. Usually when this time of year rolls around, my battery is pretty drained, but the season went so well that I can't wait for next season to start. We have a good recruiting class coming in, as well as some transfers, but we'll still miss the play and the leadership of our two seniors."

UNO hosted the conference championships for the first time and, according to Nichols, its efforts were well-received.

"I really appreciate the support that UNO and the community have given us," Nichols said. "The school, Cherri Mankenberg and all the trainers did a bang-up job in hosting this tournament for the first time. I've been getting a number of compliments from other coaches and fans about how well they thought the tournament went and I'm looking forward to hosting it again." ☎

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With chewed gum, sponsorships sending sports down low road

Greg Cote
Knight Ridder Newspapers

If the chewed, discarded gum of baseball player Luis Gonzalez can fetch thousands from lunatic bidders on eBay, we can only surmise that star athletes — struck by paranoia and anticipating the logical next step in memorabilia — will begin to post armed guards outside their bathroom stalls.

All boundaries that once governed collectibles have disappeared.

The day is coming when Alonzo Mourning might wear a Nike-brand "neck trough" to catch his own valuable perspiration, for example.

One can only imagine the riches that might be accrued by purloining and then auctioning the expectorant of a Cliff Floyd. Collectors who once had no bigger challenge than deciding whether a card was in mint condition might soon grapple with the value differential of standard (what we call Classic) spit or the more preferred, fecal-colored tobacco stream.

I suspect a splat of fluey phlegm will trump all. But that's just me.

People who haunt eBay are scary. I suspect I would draw serious bids by posting for sale the following item:

"Fetid Sock Worn by Former Amateur Golfer."

Sports fans in general seem to have the least shame.

That's why you might see, as I did at a Marlins game last week, an adult man all

but trample a small boy to retrieve a foul ball.

That wiggles the Pathetic Meter even more than the sight of a grown fan diving to seize a T-shirt shot from a cannon.

You want a crowd, Marlins? Three words for ya:

Chewed Gum Night.

But I digress. (Nasty habit.)

To me, the denigrating collectibles business continues as only the second saddest development in sports.

After all, memorabilia is sort of a victimless crime. I figure anyone who would gather and sell spit-out gum deserves profound pity, while anyone who would pay for it deserves unfettered ridicule.

I would like to find that same buyer and offer him, from my own collection, several baseballs autographed by Babe Ruth. After the ink dries.

As tawdry a business as collecting has become, rampant commercialization — championed by "corporate sponsorship" — continues to pave the low road to where sports have turned.

It is bad enough that "signage" occupies most every foot of space inside stadiums and arenas, including court-side and behind home plate, where TV cameras can't miss it.

Worse is the corporate naming of those buildings and events.

This isn't just buyer and seller now, this is the cheapening of society at large. This is the encroachment of mass advertising, the idea that nothing is sacred

if one's very name is for sale.

Our teams and events have become prostitutes, and business is brisk.

The first name of the pro tennis tournament on Key Biscayne has been that of Lipton tea, Ericsson cell phones and now Nasdaq stock exchange, just in the past few years. Criminals change names less often.

The NASCAR race in Homestead goes steady with a cigarette, a product bad for your health, but not your operating budget.

Now the Doral golf tournament is walking the boulevard again, looking. The Internet provider, Genuity — said fast, the word always sounded like a man sneezing — has jilted the event, so Doral hunts for a new "partner."

"We'd love to have a big retail name," Doral tournament director Tom Neville said Wednesday, casting. "Bank of America would be perfect."

I asked what the event would be called if no sponsor were found, unfortunately an impossibility.

"The Neville Open," Neville said.

It may not be a good sign that Doral was dropped by a sinking company whose stock has fallen to 81 cents a share. That's barely enough to buy a pack of gum, let alone a pack of previously chewed gum.

Doral has ample suitors, though. As with prostitution, corporate naming gratifies both buyer and seller as it diminishes others' quality of life by the subtlest shades.

Here in South Florida, where "sell

out" refers to corporate naming more than crowd size, the Dolphins and Marlins play in a stadium named after a bankrupt athletic apparel manufacturer, the Heat sold out to an airline, and the Panthers bedded with a rental car company.

I'm surprised we haven't seen team names themselves sold to corporate sponsors. The possibilities are endless.

The hockey team is young, right? "And now, introducing your KinderCare Panthers...!"

The basketball team is old? Perfect. "Today on NBC, the Utah Jazz take on the Geritol Heat..."

How about the United Van Lines Marlins? Slogan: "Whether You're Moving the Family or the Franchise..."

We don't exaggerate by much. Corporate naming will naturally metastasize from stadiums, arenas and events onto leagues and teams, and then onto the last bastion: players.

The announcer will intone, "... now, batting fourth for the Mondavi Vineyard Giants ... Dell Computers Presents Barry Bonds!"

And it's hard to say which will enjoy greater market value:

The home run ball Bonds swats into the bay.

The pulverized wad of Doublemint he spits rounding third.

Or those glistening beads of DNA-certified sweat flying off him like small diamonds, ready to be mined. ☞

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from Change, page 5

facilitating the ease of banding together as consumers, workers and taxpayers. Strengthen citizen participation in our political economy.

- Enact living-wage laws; strengthen worker health and safety laws; and repeal Taft-Hartley and other obstructions to collective bargaining and worker rights.

- Issue environmental protection standards to systematically reduce damaging environmental toxins and to promote sustainable technologies like solar energy and organic farming.

- Provide full Medicare coverage for everyone and revamp our national programs for prevention of disease and trauma.

- Launch a national mission to abolish poverty, as some other Western democracies have done, based on proposals made long ago by conservatives, liberals and progressives.

- Design and implement a national security policy to counter violence and the silent mass violence of global diseases, environmental devastation and extreme poverty. Reduce waste and corporate domination of defense budgets — a wasteful defense is a weak defense. Vigorously wage peace and advance nonviolence by education and by foreseeing and forestalling global perils.

- Renegotiate NAFTA and GATT to be democratic and to be "pull-up," not "pull-down," trade agreements that subordinate labor, consumer and environmental standards to commercial trade matters.

- End criminal justice system discrimination, reject the failed war on drugs in favor of rehabilitation and

community development, and replace for-profit corporate prisons with superior public institutions.

- Defend and strengthen the civil justice system; apply criminal laws against corporate crime; and fully prosecute consumer fraud and abuses. Expand consumer, worker and children's health, safety and economic rights.

- Strengthen investor-shareholder rights, remedies and authority over managers and officers and boards of directors so that those who own the companies also control them. End the massive corporate welfare schemes that distort and mis-allocate public budgets. Reintroduce the historic function of corporate chartering as an instrument of ensuring corporate accountability and the sovereignty of the people.

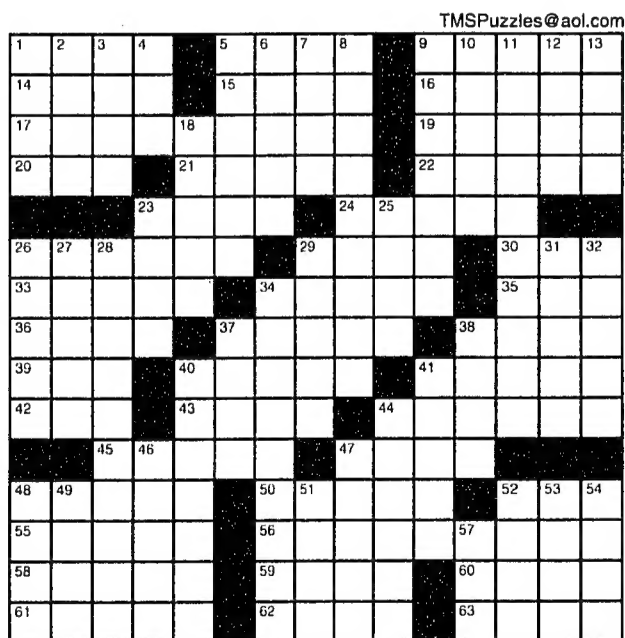
The sorry political record of the last several years, marked by one capitulation to corporate demands after another, reminds us of how pressing is the work to strengthen our American democracy.

For more information on how you can become involved in this civic effervescence, visit our Web pages: www.democracyrising.org and www.citizenworks.org.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Ralph Nader, a consumer advocate and former presidential candidate, is the author of *Crashing the Party: Taking on the Corporate Government in an Age of Surrender*. Readers may write to him at: Congressional Accountability Project, P.O. Box 1446, Washington, D.C. 20036. ☎

The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

4/30/02

ACROSS

- 1 Soft drink
- 5 Andy's pal
- 9 Knights' weapons
- 14 Eden man
- 15 Slanted surface
- 16 Fill with joy
- 17 From Peru to Spain
- 19 Narrow openings
- 20 Golf-hole starter
- 21 Bay window
- 22 Shows concern
- 23 Transgressions
- 24 Argentine plain
- 26 Oval nuts
- 29 Clock face
- 30 High mountain
- 33 In the air
- 34 Old fogies
- 35 Born in Paris
- 36 Lacoste or Levesque
- 37 Metaphysical poet

DOWN

- 2 Garfield's pal
- 3 Female noble
- 4 Doc's org.
- 5 Future oaks
- 6 61-in-'61 guy
- 7 Formerly
- 8 Male horses
- 9 Mexican agaves
- 10 Edgar ___ Poe
- 11 From Egypt to Virginia
- 12 Diminutive ending
- 13 Shrink hr.?
- 18 Low dive
- 23 Secure
- 25 Behind time
- 26 European capital
- 27 Barcelata's "Maria"
- 28 From New Hampshire to Spain
- 29 Beneficiary

ACROSS

- 38 Used a loom
- 39 Abbr. for a bus.
- 40 Natalie and Paula
- 41 Creator
- 42 ___ Paulo
- 43 Toward shelter
- 44 Light beams
- 45 Less common
- 47 Assist
- 48 California ballplayer
- 50 Perfect example
- 52 Crimson or scarlet
- 55 Battery electrode
- 56 From Colorado to Italy
- 58 Bowler Dick
- 59 Hereditary unit
- 60 Whiff
- 61 Graceful birds
- 62 Periods of note
- 63 Compass direction

DOWN

- 31 Pry bar
- 32 Equals
- 34 "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" poet
- 37 Pineapple company
- 38 Stinging insect
- 40 Vocations
- 41 "My Dinner with Andre" director
- 44 Departs
- 46 Shakespearean forest
- 47 Salon dye
- 48 Dog feet
- 49 Once again
- 51 Stag, e.g.
- 52 Took the train
- 53 Adam's grandson
- 54 Flit
- 57 Propel a shell

Horoscopes

predictions by Madame Zora

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Belly dance yourself to all your classes this week. Not only will you attract the deserved attention, but you'll also find out the speed of the dance.

Gemini (May 21 – June 21)

You nature lover, you. Glue birdseeds on your head so when the birds flock to you, you'll be just like Snow White in the forest. But remember TV only shows the pretty parts, so expect the bird droppings to add another dimension to your black hair. Who knows, it just might be nourishing.

Cancer (June 22 – July 22)

Listen to classical music and be transported into a world full of talking life-size gummy bears and dancing high-heeled red tulips.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)

Travel a lot this week, all for free. Fantasizing — it'll take you to any country you want to go faster and for less.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

Lately you've been dreaming you are getting married, but that no one knows about it. You're in your wedding dress walking around a city and no one knows what's going on. Don't panic, dreams mean little, right?

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 23)

Lizard folklore: Leap like a lizard and catch a fly. Take off from your hind legs and jump to the sky. Higher and higher you'll go until a little kid cuts off your tail.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 – Nov. 21)

Endless last-minute studying has sucked the life right out of you. Keep a box of Krispy Kreme next to you for the occasional shot of fat and sugar energy.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

Sing your favorite song as loud as you can in a public area. If people throw you coins, you'll know you're good. If the coins start hitting you, then stop singing.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

A hundred and one ways to eat cereal #29: Eat it without milk.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

Be romantic just for the hell of it.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)

Get out your nice tea set (I know you have one) and set it out with biscuits; Sean Connery is coming to tea.

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Don't be sad, lady. The end is almost near. Soon you'll be free. No more exams or projects for you or me! I'll drink to that. ☎

from Movies, page 7

Before the movies there will be a 30-minute set by local band WYO, who, along with Project: Wet, have contributed music for the compilation.

But the fun doesn't stop at the Joyo. That would be too easy. *It's Eating My Head* will also be available for rent at video stores in Lincoln so you can enjoy the magic again

and again.

The plan is to get *It's Eating My Head* into video stores in Omaha. But if you can't wait that long, tear yourself away from Web sites of ill repute long enough to check out www.comfedvideo.com to find out how to order your own copy. ☎



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MBSC Activities

The Milo Bail Student Center is a Unit of Student Affairs



Tues., April 30th

7:30 am Catholic Campus Ministry
8 am Parking Advisory
9 am Aviation Institute
9:30 am Recruitment Services
11:30 am Student Organizations
11:30 am Traffic Appeals
12 noon Catholic Campus Ministry
12 noon SPO Board
12 noon University Honors Program Luncheon
1 pm Goodrich Students
2:15 pm Edge Focus
3:30 pm Orientation
4 pm Student Health Advisory Council
6 pm Alpha Xi Delta
6:30 pm Christ on Campus

8 pm Lambda Theta Nu

Wed., May 1st

7 am College of Education Faculty Meeting
8 am Goodrich Students
8 am Campus Crusade
10 am MPA Meeting
11 am SPO
11:30 am Fair Housing Audit
12 noon Jazz on the Plaza
12 noon Japanese Studies Luncheon
12 noon A.A. Meeting
12 noon Chapter Summary Bible Study
12 noon IPD
2 pm Student Organizations
4:30 pm Environmental Studies
6:30 pm Faculty Senate

Thurs., May 2nd

8:30 am MBSC Managers
9 am Larry Morgan's Staff Meeting
9 am "Consider This . . ."
11 am Quest
11:30 am Library Friends
12 noon Jazz on the Plaza
2 pm Community Service Learning
2:30 pm Graduate Faculty
3:30 pm Orientation
3:30 pm The Edge Focus
3:30 pm Panhellenic
7 pm Delta Sigma Pi
8 pm Campus Crusade

Fri., May 3rd

11:30 am College of Education Meeting
11:30 am Library Candidate Luncheon
11:30 am Immigration Luncheon
12 noon Jazz on the Plaza
12 noon Women's Studies Spring Luncheon
12 noon Interfraternity Council
12:30 pm A.L.A.S.
1 pm IAAP-CPS Exam
1 pm Immigration Luncheon
2 pm Judicial Board
7 pm Quest

Sat., May 4th

8 am IAAP-CPS Exam
8:30 am Orientation
11 am Delta Sigma Theta

6 pm Foundation

Sun., May 5th

2 pm International Studies
3 pm Delta Sigma Theta
5 pm Pi Kappa Alpha
5 pm Sigma Lambda Beta
6 pm Pi Kappa Alpha

Mon., May 6th

12 noon Masters of Social Work Orientation
2 pm Welcome Week Meeting
4 pm TAP Reception

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ONLY one paper left for the semester!!!!